

Getting ahead of pear psylla with Centaur[®]



Delayed Dormant



Tight Cluster



Cluster Bud



Popcorn

Early-season control of pear psylla is a key component of Ron Britt's insect-control program in pears. "If you let the numbers get out of hand, it is extremely difficult to control pear psylla later on," Britt said. One tool the Yakima, Wash.-based independent crop consultant considers vital to his early-season psylla control is Centaur[®] Insect Growth Regulator. "Centaur is very effective at providing early-season control of pear psylla, which extends throughout the growing year," Britt said. "Once you get the numbers down, it's just a numbers game. It becomes much easier to control," he said.

With its unique chemistry, Centaur is helping growers and fieldmen control psylla and two secondary pests while fighting the build-up of resistance. "I use it as a resistance-management strategy for pear psylla control," said Darrin Belton, horticulturist at Wilbur-Ellis in Yakima. "It's a good rotational material for pear psylla that also gives us good mealybug control. Psylla in particular has a history of rolling through a lot of products," Belton said. Because of its ability to control secondary pests, Centaur fits in a variety of spray programs.

In Hood River, Ore., orchardist Larry Martin and grower-fieldman Dave Wiebalk use Centaur to control San Jose scale, in addition to pear psylla. "The last few years we've been fighting the scale pretty hard," Martin said. Since adopting an aggressive treatment program that includes Centaur, Martin has cut his culls due to San Jose scale from 30 to 40 percent in 2008, when the scale sneaked up on him, to 3 to 4 percent in 2009. "It was a big improvement," Martin said. He's hoping continued use of Centaur can help bring San Jose scale culls to zero.

Centaur controls pear psylla by halting nymph development. The active ingredient in Centaur, buprofezin, is a chitin inhibitor that works best on the first and second instars, the early developmental stages of nymphs. Early season control with Centaur is best achieved by applying the product pre-bloom, before pear psylla egg hatch.

Centaur is soft on beneficials and has excellent worker safety. As the only chemistry in IRAC Group 16, it is an excellent rotational option. "Centaur is a great fit for low-OP, no-OP programs and a great set-up spray and great complement for some of our other products," Belton said.



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